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9 October 1963

INTERDEPARTMENTAL COVER SUPPORT  
TO OPERATION NIMBUS

I. PREVIOUS COVER PLAN

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This document supersedes previous Cover Plan ☐ 3525-64/N1 which should be removed from the files and destroyed.

II. OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVE:

The objective of Operation NIMBUS is photographic and electronic reconnaissance of selected military and intelligence targets on the Island of Cuba. The instrument to be used to accomplish the objective is the U-2 aircraft.

III. GENERAL OPERATIONAL COVER PLAN

During recent months, the United States has intensified its surveillance of the whole Caribbean area in order to acquire up-to-the-minute information on the nature and extent of the Communist build-up. The Strategic Air Command is flying normal surveillance missions in support of this objective, using U-2 aircraft.

The above plan principally applies when the U-2 is located, or involved in an incident, outside the U. S. continental limits. For training/staging base activities and for emergency landings at bases within the continental United States, there is an alternate story as indicated in paragraphs V, B & C below.

IV. FOR PURPOSES OF THIS OPERATION THE FOLLOWING AREAS ARE CONSIDERED TO BE:

A. Hostile:

Cuba

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**D. Other:**

Puerto Rico  
Jamaica  
Bahamas  
Haiti  
Dominican Republic

**V. PERTINENT COVER STORIES TO BE DISSEMINATED BY RESPONSIBLE ACTION OFFICES ARE INDICATED BELOW:**

**A. General Press and Publication Inquiries:**

**1. Cover Story**

During recent months, the United States has intensified its surveillance of the whole Caribbean area in order to acquire up-to-the-minute information on the nature and extent of the Communist build-up. CINCLANT will be advised of the foregoing and instructed to refer any press inquiries to the Director, Office of Information, Headquarters, USAF (General Martin). The Under Secretary of the Air Force (Dr. Charyk) will furnish to General Martin a statement.

**2. Responsible Action Office**

Department of Defense (Dr. Charyk)

**3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release**

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

**B. Activities at Training/Staging Bases:**

**1. Cover Story**

The U-2 is a SAC-owned aircraft flown from Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio, Texas, engaged in a routine training flight.

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2. Responsible Action Office

Department of Defense (Dr. Charyk)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

C. Emergency Landings at Bases within Continental U. S.

1. Cover Story

Same as V., B above.

2. Responsible Action Office

Department of Defense (Dr. Charyk)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

D. Incident over Hostile Territory (See IV., A)

1. Cover Story

In this instance, the pilot is under strict instructions to destroy the aircraft at sea, with one exception. If he is within emergency landing distance of the Guantanamo Naval Base he will head offshore, contact the base by prearranged signal, which will scramble a fighter escort, and land at Guantanamo from the direction of the open sea.

If he falls into the hands of Castro forces, he will repeat the story given in paragraph V., E below. If queried by these forces, he may state that he was engaged in peripheral surveillance, but will deny overflight. In response to questions regarding his physical presence in Cuba, he will state that he was attacked while on a regular peripheral surveillance mission, parachuted from his aircraft, and drifted inland.

2. Responsible Action Office

Department of State (Mr. Hillman)

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3. Coordinating Office prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

8. Incident over other Territory Outside the U. S. (See IV, B)

1. Cover Story

During recent months, the United States has intensified its surveillance of the whole Caribbean area in order to acquire up-to-the-minute information on the nature and extent of the Communist build-up. The Strategic Air Command is flying normal surveillance missions in support of this objective.

(N. B. - Instructions to the pilot are to secure the aircraft through local assistance to prevent damage and pilferage and to contact the local U. S. Consulate to assist him in communicating with his emergency contacts (Mission Control Center or Hq SAC).

2. Responsible Action Office

Department of Defense (Dr. Charyk)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

F. Hostile Protest Without Incident:

1. Cover Story

All interested departments of the U. S. Government, if queried, will deny knowledge of any such overflights of Cuba.

2. Responsible Action Office

Not applicable, since all departments will deny knowledge of Cuban overflights.

3. Coordinating Offices Prior to Release

Not applicable.

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- VI. The following offices or individuals have been briefed by Dr. Joseph V. Charyk to refer any inquiries to Headquarters, USAF - Office of Information (General Martin):

Commander, Air Force Missile Test Center, Cape Canaveral  
(Major General Davis)

Commander, Air Force Logistics Command (Gen. Bradley)

Commander, Air Force Systems Command (Gen. Schriever)

- VII. The following offices or individuals have been briefed on this cover plan by Col. Ralph D. Steakley and have been instructed to either respond to press inquiries as directed or to refer such inquiries to Headquarters, USAF - Office of Information (Gen. Martin):

Commander, Strategic Air Command (Gen. Power)

Commander, Hamey Air Force Base (Col. Shy)

CINCLANT (Vice Admiral Dennison)

- VIII. The following named individuals are being furnished a copy of this document for purposes of internal coordination with cleared personnel within their respective departments:

Dr. Joseph V. Charyk	-Department of Defense
Brig. Gen. Edward G. Lansdale	-Department of Defense
Mr. Thomas Parrott	-Office of the Military Representative to the President
Mr. Roger Hillsman	-Department of State
Dr. Herbert Scoville	-Central Intelligence Agency
Col. Ralph D. Steakley	-Department of Defense(JCS)
Col. Leo P. Geary	-AFICG-5, Special Projects, USAF

- IX. It is desired that each Agency maintain a list of all cleared personnel within their respective organizations who have been briefed on this cover plan.
- X. The Central Intelligence Agency will notify each Agency of any changes to this plan, and in turn requests that any alterations be coordinated with the CIA prior to implementation.

25X1A CIA CONTACT  
OFFICE TELEPHONE  
CIA CONTROL CENTER  
HOME TELEPHONE

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**B. Other:**

Puerto Rico  
Jamaica  
Bahamas  
Haiti  
Dominican Republic

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**A. General Press and Publication Inquiries:**

**1. Cover Story**

During recent months, the United States has intensified its surveillance of the whole Caribbean area in order to acquire up-to-the-minute information on the nature and extent of the Communist build-up. CINCLANT and the Commander, Air Force Missile Test Center will be advised of the foregoing and instructed to refer any press inquiries to the Director, Office of Information, Headquarters, USAF (General Martin). The Under Secretary of the Air Force (Dr. Charyk) will furnish to General Martin a statement.

**2. Responsible Action Offices**

Department of Defense (Dr. Charyk)

**3. Coordinating Office prior to Release**

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

**B. Activities at Training/Staging Bases:**

**1. Cover Story**

The U-2 is a SAC-owned aircraft flown from Edwards AFB, California, engaged in fuel consumption, range, and other studies pertinent to a continuing modification program.

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2. Responsible Action Office

Department of Defense (Dr. Charyk)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

4. Emergency Landings at Bases within Continental U. S.

1. Cover Story

Same as V., B above.

2. Responsible Action Office

Department of Defense (Dr. Charyk)

3. Coordinating Office Prior to Release

Central Intelligence Agency (Dr. Scoville)

5. Incident Over Hostile Territory (See IV., A)

1. Cover Story

In this instance, the pilot is under strict instructions to destroy the aircraft at sea, with one exception. If he is within emergency landing distance of the Guantanamo Naval Base he will head offshore, contact the base by prearranged signal, which will scramble a fighter escort, and land at Guantanamo from the direction of the open sea.

If he falls into the hands of Castro forces, he will repeat the story given in paragraph V., E below, adding that his flight went off course accidentally. Further information will be limited to his name, date of birth, and his address in the U. S.

2. Responsible Action Office

Department of State (Mr. Hilsman)

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Commander, Air Force Logistics Command (Gen. Bradley)  
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Mr. Roger Hillman	-Department of State
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CIA CONTACT :  
OFFICE TELEPHONE :  
CIA CONTROL CENTER :  
HOME TELEPHONE :



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WARNING

This document contains information affecting the national security of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws U. S. Code Title 18, Sections 793 and 794. The law prohibits its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person, as well as its use in any manner prejudicial to the safety or interest of the United States or for the benefit of any foreign government to the detriment of the United States. It is to be seen only by U. S. personnel especially indoctrinated and authorized to receive information in the designated control channels. Its security must be maintained in accordance with regulations pertaining to the designated controls.

This document contains information referring to Projects:

*NIMBUS* .....

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